

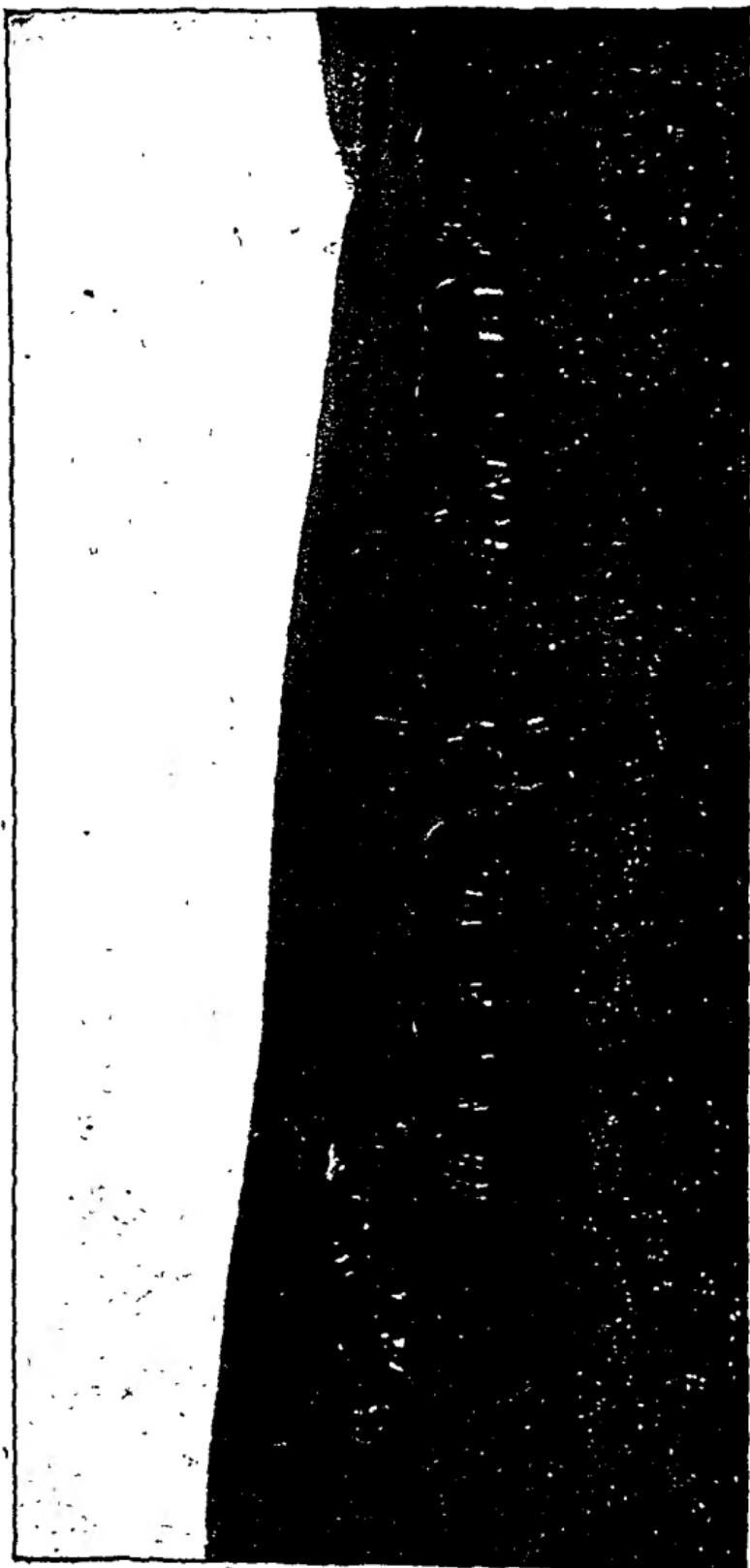


Winter Wheat is a Success in Alberta

Marvellous increase in the acreage sown in the past three years. The elevator men and millers are meeting the situation. Farmers are enthusiastic over "Alberta Red"

Issued by direction of
The Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of Interior
Ottawa, Canada.

1906



Ranching Scene in Alberta—A Band of Horses.

Winter Wheat a Success in Southern Alberta.

Perhaps the most noticeable feature of the crop returns in the Canadian West in the year 1905 was the manner in which winter wheat increased and multiplied in acreage and in total production. In three or four years it has grown from a very small beginning to an aggregate, in bushels, of nearly 2,000,000, and the land broken for the crop in 1906 is said by experts to be able to produce 6,000,000.

The Genesis of Winter Wheat in the West.

But, although it is only a little over three years since E. E. Thompson, a Nebraska farmer, who settled at Spring Coulee, gave the impetus to winter wheat growing in Southern Alberta, it must not be imagined that the grain had not been grown in the district before that time. As far back as the fall of 1883, Francis Whillock moved to Alberta from Manitoba, settling about two miles from Pincher Creek. Previous to coming, he had visited his brother in Ontario, who gave him a few ears of fall wheat out of his field to look at, and Mr. Whillock put them in his pocket and thought no more about them. The following year, finding the wheat in his pocket, he thought he would try it in his garden. It came up well, but a large portion was eaten down by some pest; the remainder did so well that it was used for a larger patch next year, and so on until it was grown on a large scale. The German settlers near Pincher Creek were the next to use Mr. Whillock's seed, and then Mr. C. Kettles, Mr. Morden and others. Mr. Morden, who resides at Pincher Creek, is the proud possessor of a medal and a diploma from the Chicago Exposition of 1893 for his exhibit of excellent wheat on that occasion. The sample improved by being grown in the district, and remained very pure. Since those early days, through the years of drouth, wet seasons, windy falls, chinooks and winter storms, spring thaws and freezing, fall wheat has never failed in the Pincher Creek District, is the statement of F. W. Godsal, who has kept tab on the winter wheat situation in Southern Alberta for many years.

The Points that Favour "Alberta Red."

Winter wheat is sown in August, grows to a height of six to eight inches in the fall, comes through the winter without heaving or injury in any form, and even with the little snowfall that prevails, escapes the thaw and freeze period. It is ready for the reaper from the first to the 15th of August. Climatic, soil and other conditions make this part of the Canadian West especially favourable to the growth of this cereal. An advantage of this crop is that it does not shell when over-ripe. This bridges a harvest difficulty when help is scarce.

Marvellous Increase in Acreage Sown.

All through Southern Alberta, and particularly in what was formerly known as ranching lands, winter wheat appears to have taken a strong hold of the people, and around Lethbridge, Taber, Cardston, Spring Coulee, Pincher Creek, Macleod, Stavely, Leavings, Claresholm, Nanton, High River, Okotoks, and up to Calgary, the increase in acreage sown last year was quite marked. One instance will suffice. Up to four years ago where Claresholm now stands the district was given over almost exclusively to ranching, and agriculture had been given a "black eye" by the ranchers and others who lived thereabouts. Then a party of agriculturists came in and viewed the land, and determined to locate. The first year they made a test of forty-five acres in winter wheat, and so well did the returns come that the following year 1,000 acres were broken and sown. The results were gratifying and last year—the third year—8,000 acres were broken for winter wheat. The uniformly good crops last season had such a cheering effect upon the farmers of that district that 40,000 acres around Claresholm were broken last fall, and winter wheat sown, where four years back a test of 45 acres was made in what was looked upon as "Arid Land." And as with Claresholm so with all of the districts mentioned and others not named.

Winter Wheat Not Confined to Any Locality.

North of Calgary winter wheat is beginning to be looked upon as a steady product and even in the vicinity of Edmonton—which is the home of mixed farming—it is highly spoken of. The day before the inauguration of the Province of Alberta at Edmonton, on Sept. 1st, 1905, one of the sights that met the view of the Vice-Regal party on their way to the Provincial Capital, was a magnificent arch composed of the agricultural products of the district in and around Red Deer—half way between Calgary and Edmonton—and one of the features of the arch was a splendid display of "Alberta Red" winter wheat. At Didsbury, Olds, Lacombe and Wetaskiwin winter wheat has also done well, and reports show returns of 35 bushels and over to the acre during the last harvest.

PRECIPITATION.

The following table gives, for some years back, the precipitation at four different points where there are meteorological observatories:—

| Year. | | | Medicine | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|
| | Calgary. | Lethbridge. | Hat. | Macleod. |
| | In. | In. | In | In. |
| 1885..... | 13.67 | .... | 8.65 | .... |
| 1886..... | 11.32 | .... | 6.72 | .... |
| 1887..... | 13.69 | .... | 9.89 | .... |
| 1888..... | 17.51 | .... | 14.67 | .... |
| 1889..... | 11.59 | .... | 7.96 | .... |
| 1890..... | 15.47 | .... | 9.13 | .... |
| 1891..... | 10.44 | .... | 13.15 | .... |
| 1892..... | 7.91 | .... | 12.24 | .... |
| 1893..... | 11.05 | .... | 14.60 | .... |
| 1894..... | 11.70 | .... | 13.14 | .... |
| 1895..... | 15.12 | .... | 14.13 | .... |
| 1896..... | 16.05 | .... | 18.18 | 12.73 |
| 1897..... | 20.58 | .... | 17.25 | 12.69 |
| 1898..... | 16.21 | .... | 15.90 | 13.59 |
| 1899..... | 26.15 | .... | 22.28 | 19.74 |
| 1900..... | 17.57 | .... | 22.05 | 10.08 |
| 1901..... | 22.31 | .... | 20.80 | 12.21 |
| 1902..... | 34.57 | 28.13 | 13.68 | 10.48 |
| 1903..... | 22.77 | 14.82 | 9.90 | 9.73 |
| 1904..... | 11.89 | 11.40 | 9.70 | 5.34 |
| 1905..... | 14.32 | 13.78 | 8.99 | 11.63 |

Average precipitation for the last ten years ending 1905:—At:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Calgary..... | 20.24 |
| Lethbridge (4 years only)..... | 17.03 |
| Medicine Hat..... | 15.87 |
| Macleod..... | 11.82 |

Average for the four points—16.24.

Growing Winter Wheat Has Passed the Experimental Stage.

The fact that level-headed business men have gone largely into the building of elevators and flour mills, between the boundary and Red Deer, is a strong endorsement of their belief that the growing of winter wheat has absolutely passed the experimental stage, and may now be reckoned upon as a staple product. In addition to the mills at Calgary and at other points in Alberta, it is understood that large flour mills will be established at Vancouver, where flour will be manufactured in large quantities for export purposes. The principal market for winter wheat will be the Orient, and the opportunity for building up reciprocal trade with the East will be great. There is no reason why, eventually, as much business should not be done on the Pacific Coast as is done today at the Atlantic ports, and when that time comes "Alberta Red" winter wheat will not be the smallest factor in contributing to its success.

CROP RETURNS.

To the present time, as has been stated, the growing of fall wheat has been largely experimental, and with increased experience as to the best method of preparing the soil and with better information as to the proper time for sowing the seed, it is reasonable to suppose that the yield per acre in the future will be maintained. With the object of showing what has already been accomplished the following table of acreage and yield of farmers in different localities has been prepared:—

| NAME | P. O. ADDRESS | 1903 | | 1904 | | 1905 | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| | | Acres in Crop | Yield in bushels per acre | Acres in Crop | Yield in bushels per acre | Acres in Crop | Yield in bushels per acre |
| W. L. Thompson | Spring Coulee | 300 | 35 | 400 | 18 | 500 | 25 |
| F. W. Cresmon. | Spring Coulee | 30 | 47 | 150 | 30 | 310 | 32 |
| Daniel Wenger | Okotoks | 4 | 42 | 10 | 26 | 10 | 30 |
| E. E. Thompson | High River | 700 | 35 | 2000 | 20 | 4500 | 22 |
| J. E. Davison... | Cowley P. O. | 25 | 25 | 25 | 16 | ... | 25 |
| J. Anderson | Cardston | 40 | 20 | 40 | 25 | 45 | 35 |
| H. B. Cossar | Calgary | 8 | 25 | 8 | 40 | 11 | 35 |
| Miles Farrell... | Carstairs | ... | ... | 30 | 41 | 23 | 41 |
| John Kimmis... | Cowley P. O. | 5 | 50 | 50 | 25 | 1800 | 30 |
| Joseph Fisk | Okotoks | 7 | 35 | 30 | 30 | 75 | 36 |
| L. H. Hayter | Clareholm | ... | ... | 40 | 25 | 200 | 32 |
| E. B. Shantz | Didsbury | 30 | 24 | 34 | 44 | 20 | 40 |
| W. R. Dobbie | Pincher | 23 | 43 | 33 | 24 | 1160 | 42 |
| Geo. Power | Inniskill | ... | ... | 7 | 50 | 8 | 50 |
| Henry Jamieson | Red Deer | 22 | 28 | 30 | 20 | 23 | 53 |
| James Walker | Calgary | 8 | 33 | 24 | 35 | ... | 34 |
| J. W. Russell | Lacombe | 12 | 23 | 12 | 25 | 20 | 37 |



Wheat Harvest, Southern Alberta.

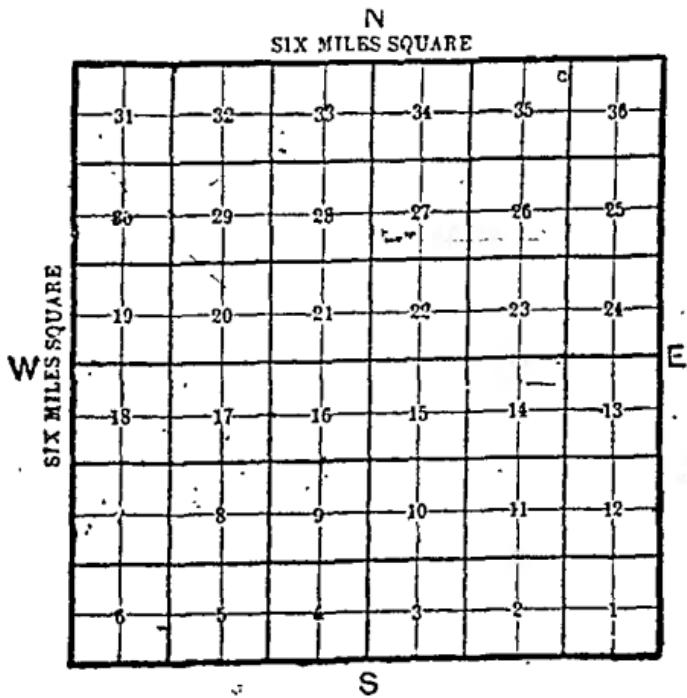


Fall Wheat District Near Nanton, Southern Alberta.

Railway Extension Will Increase the Acreage.

As the new lines and branches of the Canadian Pacific, the Canadian Northern, the Grand Trunk Pacific and other projected railways gridiron the West and bring the farthest parts of Alberta and Saskatchewan within easy range of markets, the opportunities for farmers to locate near shipping points will be greatly improved, and the large immigration of the past three years—when some 150,000 came in—is bound not only to continue, but to increase very materially. Farmers from all over the United States are to be found, who have cast in their lot with the "Men of the Northern Zone," and who are determined to put Canada in the front rank. Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Dakota, California, Oregon—from every State where good farming is known—farmers have come to the prolific wheat lands of Western Canada. They come with a thorough knowledge of what is wanted in this new country, for they have farmed under similar conditions to those which prevail in the Canadian West. Usually, they bring their farm stock and implements with them, and with the superior soil and climate and the easy conditions of settlement and purchase of land, they do not take long to put themselves in touch with their surroundings and find the success that always awaits the earnest seeker. To these there can be no better inducement than the fact that winter wheat has been tried in Western Canada and is considered to be in many districts a success from the 110th Meridian to the Foothills, and from Edmonton to the International Boundary line.

The Following is a Plan of a Township:



Each square contains 640 acres; each quarter section contains 160 acres.

A section contains 640 acres and forms one mile square.

Government Lands open for homestead (that is for free settlement).—Section Nos. 2, 4, 6, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36.

Railway Lands for sale.—Section Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 31, 33, 35.

School Sections.—Section Nos. 11 and 29 are reserved by Government for school purposes.

Hudson's Bay Company's Land for sale.—Section Nos. 8 and 26.

Any even-numbered section of Dominion lands in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories, excepting 8 and 26, which has not been homesteaded, reserved to provide wood lots for settlers, or for other purposes, may be homesteaded upon by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over eighteen years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section of 160 acres, more or less.

This privilege is hereby cancelled
Entry must now be
Made in person

Entry may be made personally to the local land office for the district in which the land to be taken is situate, or if the homesteader desires, he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, the Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, or the local agent for the district in which the land is situate, receive authority for some one to make entry for him. A fee of \$10 is charged for an ordinary homestead entry.

Homestead Duties.

Under the present law homestead duties must be performed in one of the following ways, namely:

(1) By at least six months residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year during the term of three years.

(2) If the father (or the mother, if the father is deceased) of any person who is eligible to make a homestead entry resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for by such person as a homestead—the requirements of the law as to residence prior to obtaining patent may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother.

(3) If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead, the requirements of the law as to resi-

dence may be satisfied by residence upon the said land.

Application for Patent

should be made at the end of the three years, before the Local Agent, Sub-Agent, or the Homestead Inspector. Before making application for patent the settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa of his intention to do so.

Information.

Newly arrived immigrants will receive at the immigration office in Winnipeg or at any Dominion lands office in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories, information as to the lands that are open for entry, and from the officers in charge, free of expense, advice and assistance in securing lands to suit them; and full information respecting the land, timber, coal, and mineral laws, as well as respecting Dominion lands in the railway belt in British Columbia, may be obtained upon application to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa; the Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, Manitoba, or to any of the Dominion lands agents in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories.

W. W. CORY,

Deputy Minister of the Interior.

N.B.—In addition to free grant lands, to which the regulations above stated refer, thousands of acres of most desirable lands are available for lease or purchase from railroad and other corporations and private firms in Western Canada.

INFORMATION AND ADVICE

Can be freely obtained from the following

W. W. CORY,

Deputy Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, Canada.

W. D. SCOTT,

Superintendent of Immigration, Ottawa, Canada.

J. OBED SMITH,

Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

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